



## NEWS RELEASE

December 6, 2012

For further information, contact:

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### Police Release Composite Sketch in Reported Abduction Attempt of Nine-Year-Old Girl

Police are releasing a composite sketch in this case. The description is of a white male, age 17 or 18, and 5'6" to 5'10" tall, of slim build with muscles, and some acne on chin, nose, and forehead.

If anyone has information in the case, please call 541.682.5111 and ask for Officer Renee Tobler. ###

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News Release

December 3, 2012

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#### Police Respond to School After Reported Abduction Attempt of Nine-Year-Old Girl

Around 1 p.m. today, Police were called to Yujin Gakuen Japanese Immersion Elementary School, 250 Silver Lane, after a nine-year-old female student attempting to use a water fountain on the south side of the school reported being grabbed by an adult male. The female was able to get away from him. The male fled on foot. Police conducted a search of the area and are now reaching out to the public for any tips in the case.

The man is described as white, 5'10", medium build, with short brown hair, clean shaven, wearing a green shirt, and slacks or jeans.

If anyone has information in the case, please call 541.682.5111 and ask for Officer Renee Tobler.

Eugene Police urge area residents to call police immediately when they observe suspicious activity around children. The girl in this incident was able to react and escape. The incident serves as an important reminder for parents to teach their kids in detail about what to do if a stranger approaches them.



While abductions by strangers are extremely rare (most offenses against children, including abduction and sexual offenses, are committed by people that they know), such crimes do rarely occur and it is important to teach children about personal safety. Crime prevention specialists offer the following tips:

1.

Explain the danger. Parents often tell children, "Don't go with strangers." This is vague and doesn't help children protect themselves-most abductions are by relatives anyway! Better advice would be, "If you are lost or need help, sometimes it's okay to ask strangers for assistance-but strangers shouldn't be asking you for help or to go with them. You should not go somewhere with strangers unless you need their help in an emergency."

2.

Who is a stranger? A stranger is anyone you don't know. Make an agreement regarding who is safe to go with, and that they must say "NO!" to anyone else, no matter what! Teach your child to stay at least arms' length away from a stranger who approaches them.

3. Don't be polite! Parents teach children to be "polite"; they should also teach that it's OK to be assertive and not talk to strangers. Adults should ask adults for help, not children!

4. Home and phone safety. Teach your child not to open the door to strangers except in a real emergency. Explain what an emergency might be, such as a medical problem or a fire. Tell them not to answer probing questions from strangers. Tell them to come get you, or to call you instead. Make sure they know how to reach you wherever you might be. Teach them how and when to call 9-1-1.

5. Make a code word. Teach the child a code word. If a visitor comes to get them, the visitor must know the code word, or the child should not go with them.

6. Pick their routes. Avoid alleys, wooded areas, parking lots and spontaneous shortcuts. Choose areas where anything out of the ordinary would be noticed by neighbors, business owners, pedestrians, etc. Most importantly, help them avoid isolation. Arrange for them to walk with trusted friends. Consider providing them with a cell phone so that they can call for help.

7. Identify trusted adults. Pick stores, schools, churches, and homes of safe neighbors. Make sure your child knows these "safe places" that they should go if they need help. Remember, it's generally safer if the child picks the adult!

8. NO-GO-TELL. If approached by somebody who is scary, or who asks them to do something that seems wrong, a child should yell "NO!" then GO immediately to a trusted adult and TELL what happened.

9. Teach what to do in an actual kidnap attempt. If a child is screaming, a passerby may think it's a child having a tantrum, and fail to recognize an actual abduction. Children who are victims of attempted abduction should repeatedly yell "HELP! I DON'T KNOW THIS PERSON! I'M BEING KIDNAPPED!" Children have been saved by doing this. Be sure your child knows that resistance-yelling, kicking, scratching, biting-is acceptable under these circumstances. Depending on the age of your child, encourage them to remember details: vehicle description or model, appearance of the person involved, what was said, etc. Call the police immediately.

10. Practice with role plays. Have a friend participate, and have your child GO and TELL. Reward and coach your child.

Additionally, parents interested in learning about convicted sex offenders in our community who may be a danger to children can call the Oregon State Police Sex Offender Unit at (503) 378-3725 x44429 to request a list of all registered sex offenders living in their zip code, or go to <http://sexoffenders.oregon.gov/> for information about area residents designated as "predatory" sex offenders.

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